

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 543 without my signature.

While I support the intent of this legislation, I am unable to sign it as it lacks critical patient safety protections. This bill doesn't establish appropriate time limits for performing surgery under general anesthesia. Further, it inappropriately restricts administrative flexibility and creates state fiscal pressure during ongoing budget challenges.

I am directing the Department of Public Health to pursue legislation that establishes licensure standards for these facilities that are consistent with federal requirements and protect the health and safety of patients.

For these reasons, I am returning AB 543 without my signature.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger